

BOROUGH OF



DORCHESTER



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1956

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman. Councillor W. A. NEAL

Vice-Chairman. Her Worship Councillor Mrs. E. K. HALLETT, J.P. Mayor.

Alderman A. C. R. POPE

Alderman H. G. LONGMAN

Councillor Mrs. N. O. JACKMAN, J.P.

Councillor T. JEREMY

Councillor V. G. MARDON

Councillor Mrs. E. H. MOORE

Councillor H. G. READ

Councillor R. R. COLLINS

STAFF - HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health (Combined Appointment)

I. B. LAWRENCE, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.

Clerk/Shorthand Typist (Combined Appointment)

Miss M. A. SMITH

Senior Public Health Inspector

C. F. ALLARD, D.P.A., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

K. H. JAMES, M.S.I.A. (Resigned 30.4.56)

D. A. DOLPHIN, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed 2.7.56)

Rodent Operator - Part Time

E. HALLETT

Clerical Staff

Miss K. M. FORD (Sick leave from 20.2.56)

Mrs. J. UNDERWOOD (Temporary - part time) (Appointed 7.5.56)

County Clinic,
Glyde Path Road,
Dorchester.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and the Councillors of the
Borough of Dorchester.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my seventh Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Borough of Dorchester for the year 1956. It is written on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health.

I mentioned in last years report that there had been an increase in the notification of Measles towards the latter part of the year and this continued into this year. 132 cases were notified, all except 8 cases occurred in children under 5 years of age and 4 cases in babies under 1 year.

No cases of Poliomyelitis were notified - vaccination against Poliomyelitis was carried out in May, 41 children completed the course of 2 injections.

There has again been a slight increase in the notifications of Tuberculosis during the year, 9 cases as compared with 7 last year.

A Public Local Inquiry on the application of the Council for consent to carry out works of improvement to the Sewage Disposal Works was held in February, a detailed report from the Public Health angle was presented supporting the need on the grounds of river pollution. The Ministry of Health notified the Council their approval of the proposals in principle.

Again I must refer to the enormous amount of meat inspections being carried out by the Public Health Inspectors necessitating overtime including weekends. Not only is this jeopardizing the proper carrying out of other Public Health duties in the Borough but this also meant the employment of extra outside part-time help to relieve the Senior Public Health Inspector who on medical advice had to cease doing overtime -- it should be remembered he has been carrying on for 2½ years.

I am sure that the Council are with me in feeling that the only satisfactory solution to the problem in its present position is the provision of a second additional Public Health Inspector.

The Mass Radiography Unit again visited the town during December and remained for 3 weeks and on this occasion three different sites were used

to facilitate the attendance of the public from the Borough and surrounding districts. The response was very good.

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Total 4,400	1,482	1,565	747	606

This shows a marked increase on the previous figures in 1954. (2,956)

There has been an increase in the number of deaths from all causes, more than half being in persons over 70 years of age.

The causes of death show an increase under the headings, cancer of the lung, other cancers and vascular diseases of the nervous system e.g. the brain, but it is good to see a slight decrease in coronary disease and angina.

Following Official Representations on unfit houses, two areas were declared Clearance Areas, one in the Mill Street district and a smaller area in the Grove.

Thirteen talks were given during the year on various subjects, the main demand was for talks on Poliomyelitis. The total attendance was about 250 persons.

Again I wish to express my appreciation for the help of the members of the Council during the year and my colleagues on the staff. I would especially mention Mr. Allard and the staff of the Health Department, who have had no easy task this year owing to some changes in the staff and illness of Miss Ford whom we wish a speedy return to health.

Your obedient Servant,

I. B. LAWRENCE.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

(Figures for 1955 shown in brackets)

Area	...	...	...	...	...	1,675 acres
Resident Population ..	...	...	...	...	11,380	(11,710)
No. of houses inhabited at the end of 1956	...	...	...	...	3,298	(3,272)
Rateable Value (31st March, 1957)	...	...	...	...	£196,817	
Rateable Value (1st April, 1957)	...	...	...	...	£177,505	(£105,968)
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£725	(£410)

VITAL STATISTICS

Population - Estimate for Births and Deaths Rates 11,380 (11,710)

Comparability Factor	Births	1.08
	Deaths	1.01

<u>Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	72	85	157	
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	
	74	86	160	(155)

Still Births

Legitimate	1	-	1	
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	
	2	-	2	(4)

Deaths - All Causes 84 72 156 (117)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year (Infant Mortality)

Legitimate	2	-	2	
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	
	3	-	3	(2)

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks (NeoNatal Mortality)

Legitimate	1	-	1	
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	
	2	-	2	(1)

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
Birth Rate	15.8	13.1	15.3
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.7	15.0	15.2
Death Rate	13.8	10.0	11.0
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.7	11.7	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate	18.8	13.0	6.0
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales...	23.8	24.9	25.4

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Tuberculosis, respiratory...	1	-	1	(1)
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	(-)
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	(-)
Diphtheria	-	-	-	(-)
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	(-)
Meningitis	-	-	-	(-)
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	(-)
Measles	-	-	-	(-)
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	(-)
Cancer of stomach..	-	2	2	(4)
Cancer of lung, bronchus	6	-	6	(3)
Cancer of breast... ..	-	5	5	(1)
Cancer of uterus... ..	-	-	-	(1)
Other Cancers	12	13	25	(11)
Acute Anaemia	-	-	-	(-)
Diabetes	1	2	3	(-)
Vascular lesions of nervous system... ..	13	13	26	(14)
Coronary disease, angina	16	6	22	(28)
High Blood Pressure with Heart Disease	1	1	2	(3)
Other Heart Disease	7	14	21	(21)
Other circulatory disease... ..	2	3	5	(5)
Influenza	-	1	1	(1)
Pneumonia	6	3	9	(4)
Bronchitis	3	-	3	(3)
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	2	(-)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	(-)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea... ..	2	-	2	(-)
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2	(2)
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2	(-)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1	(-)
Congenital malformations	1	1	2	(1)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	5	12	(9)
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-	(2)
All other accidents	1	-	1	(2)
Suicide	-	1	1	(-)
All Causes	84	72	156	(117)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table summarises the notifications of Infectious Diseases made during the year :-

Disease	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>										<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Cases admitted to hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
	<u>0-</u>	<u>1-</u>	<u>3-</u>	<u>5-</u>	<u>10-</u>	<u>15-</u>	<u>25-</u>	<u>45-</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>A.U.</u>			
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	3	3	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	10	-	-
Measles	4	26	36	58	5	1	-	-	-	2	132	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	1	9
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	5	3	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-

Apart from the continuation of the measles epidemic from last year the infectious diseases notified were remarkably low.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 1956, the following cases and deaths from Tuberculosis were notified :- (figures for 1955 shown in brackets)

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory Male	Respiratory Female	Non-Respiratory Male	Non-Respiratory Female	Respiratory Male	Respiratory Female	Non-Respiratory Male	Non-Respiratory Female
0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
15	1	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
25	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
35	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
45	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
55	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
65	1	1	--	--	1	--	--	--
Age Unknown	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
TOTALS	4(5)	4(2)	1(--)	--(--)	1(1)	--(--)	--(--)	--(--)

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Dr. T. V. Cooper of the County Laboratory and Dr. G. H. Tee of the Public Health Laboratory have again been most helpful during the year and I appreciate their ready co-operation.

The following is a table of specimens submitted to the Laboratories:-
(Totals for 1955 in brackets)

Throat Swabs	...	93	(77)	Milk	...	163	(173)
Faeces	...	189	(152)	Ice Cream	...	20	(72)
Fluod	...	51	(46)	Water	...	144	(130)
Ringworm	...	2	(7)	Sewage	...	54	(54)
Sputum	...	117	(101)	Miscellaneous	...	44	(39)

HOUSING.

<u>Council Houses</u>	<u>In process of erection.</u>	<u>Completed 1956.</u>	<u>Completed since War.</u>
Temporary --	-	-	-
Permanent --			
Traditional Type	44	27	305
Non-Traditional Type	-	-	26
Converted into Flats	-	-	5
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No. of Council Houses (pre-war)			272
No. of Post War houses completed and occupied at 31/12/56. (excluding the converted flats)			331
Total No. of Council Houses at 31/12/56 (excluding the converted flats)			603

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

Seven cases under the above section were brought to my notice during the year i.e. persons requiring care and attention. All were elderly persons and in no case was compulsory removal necessary, four went into hospital voluntarily and three remained at home and Home Helps were obtained through the County Council.

The number of these cases is increasing and I consider that there is a need for a group of houses for old people with a part time attendant - this grouping would facilitate the attendance of the District Nurse and Home Helps.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

Again the Home Help Service has been most helpful during the year and I would stress again that the service is run by part time helpers.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

To call the Ambulance for routine work ring Dorchester 420, in an emergency ask the exchange for Ambulance. Always state urgency, nature of case, full address and which Ambulance is required, e.g. sitting or stretcher case.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

During the year the following new sewers were laid.

Came View Estate	-	102 yards of 6 inch sewer.
Police Houses, James Road together with pumping station	--	647 yards (including rising main)

Continuous sampling of the high and low level sewers was carried out during the year using Moore's Swabs - all were reported negative to organisms of the Salmonella Group. River samples above and below the sewage works were also negative to these germs but showed evidence of other pollution.

PUBLIC CLEANSING - REFUSE COLLECTION.

The new Refuse Disposal site commenced last year is being filled systematically and a regular layering method is employed and the surface covered with earth, the area is screened to catch flying paper.

Rats are controlled with the help of the Rodent Control Operator.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Apart from the satisfactory chemical analysis given overleaf, regular bacteriological samples were taken by the Surveyor's Department and close co-operation was maintained with the Health Department.

The following extensions to water mains were made during the year:--

Came View Estate	-	110 yards of 6" mains
Police Houses, James Road	-	100 yards of 4" mains

The main at Maumbury Road was enlarged to a 6" main to the extent of 120 yards.

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Ammonia, free	...	...	...	...	0.080
" Albuminoid	...	...	...	...	0.090
Nitrites	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen..	...	...	...	...	7.05
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80°F	...	...	...	...	0.275
" " " 4 hours " "	...	...	...	...	0.642
Chlorine	...	...	...	...	17.5
as Sodium Chloride	...	...	...	...	28.84
Hardness, Temporary	...	...	...	...	217.5
" Permanent	...	...	...	...	50.0
" Total	..	...	...	...	267.5
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	307.0
pH value	...	...	...	...	7.1

Metals: Iron, copper, lead, zinc absent.

Appearance: Colourless and clear.

Odour: None.

Free Chlorine:

Remarks:

This is a clear, bright, hard water. The majority of the hardness is of a temporary nature and would be removed by boiling.

The water is of good organic purity and the above results give no indication of pollution.

In my opinion the water should be very satisfactory for drinking and domestic purposes.

(signed) Arthur S. Carlos.

Public Analyst.

31st October, 1956.

METEOROLOGICAL DETAILS - YEAR 1956.

Month	Rainfall inches	Rain Fell On days	Sunshine hours	Temp. in deg. F.	
				Maximum	Minimum
January	7.03	19	63.40	54	17
February	Nil	Nil	95.75	53	14
March	1.09	7	155.50	62	26
April	1.78	10	184.75	66	29
May	0.94	10	249.75	73	32
June	3.21	14	152.25	74	40
July	3.43	14	176.25	79	48
August	5.48	19	200.25	72	42
September	7.44	16	83.95	74	43
October	2.48	9	115.20	64	27
November	1.18	13	70.25	56	25
December	7.54	24	23.00	54	25
	<u>41.60</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>1,570.30</u>		
<u>Totals in</u>					
1955	44.07		1,756.50		
1954	46.43		1,505.30		
1953	33.20		1,605.19		
1952	40.11		1,664.16		

The second half of the year was wet but no rain was recorded in February, the hours of sunshine was low, the highest recorded temperature was 79°F (85 in 1955) while the minimum temperature was 14°F (21 in 1955).

Public Health Inspectors' Office,
North Square,
Dorchester.

November, 1957.

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Dorchester.

Annual Report for 1956.

I present for your consideration the following report on the work carried out by your public health inspectors in the year 1956.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955, came into operation on 1st January, 1956. This Act was one which mainly consolidated the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, Part I of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954 and the Food and Drugs Amendment Act, 1954. Section 13 of the 1938 Act was repealed and not re-enacted and replaced in practice by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. These Regulations came into force on 1st January, 1956, with the exception of certain provisions which were likely to require the alteration of premises or equipment and which came into operation on 1st July, 1956. The occupiers of food premises in the Borough were circularised and their attention drawn to the new Regulations.

In May, 1956, the Government issued a White Paper (Cmd. 9761) outlining its long-term policy for regulating the provision of slaughterhouses. The original conception of moderate concentration was replaced by a policy of allowing a limited period during which meat traders would be free to provide their own slaughterhouses, at the end of which period some control would be introduced. Members will remember that in the report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Slaughterhouses Dorchester had been selected as the recommended site for a slaughterhouse to serve a population of 157,000 in South Dorset. Regulations are to be introduced which will prescribe minimum standards for the construction, layout and equipment of slaughterhouses.

The number of animals slaughtered (61,491) and carcasses inspected (61,379) at the two slaughterhouses within the Borough reached new peaks and the problems associated with the long hours of slaughtering and the detailed inspection of the meat and offals, to which I have referred on previous occasions, continued.

Some considerable discussion took place at meetings of the Health Committee with regard to the duties of the public health inspectors and the possible appointment of a second additional public health inspector. The Committee requested me to obtain details of staff and meat inspection from a number of other authorities and these details were incorporated in a special report submitted in June. A Sub-Committee was appointed and met to consider the problem. Subsequently an approach was made to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food with regard to the payment to the Council of a contribution towards the salary of a third inspector. The Ministry replied that a scheme of assistance towards meat inspection costs was under consideration and in fact, details of the scheme were published early in 1957. The scheme is referred to later in the report. No decision had been reached by the end of the year on the appointment of a third public health inspector.

The policy of the Council to make Closing Orders on unfit houses vacated as a result of the offer to the tenants of other accommodation (by the Council or otherwise) was continued. Towards the end of the year the Council declared two Clearance Areas which included thirty-eight properties and so took the first real steps towards the implementation of its five year programme for the clearance and demolition of unfit houses.

Under the Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act, 1956, the compensation payable to owner-occupiers of certain unfit houses compulsorily purchased as unfit for human habitation is now the compensation which would be payable if the houses had not been declared unfit. The compensation payable to shopkeepers and owner-occupiers of business premises in unfit houses is now at the same rate as if the houses had not been declared unfit.

The Clean Air Act, 1956, received the Royal Assent in July and a short report on its provisions was submitted to the Health Committee.

From August, 1956, sanitary inspectors became known as public health inspectors. It is hoped that as a result fewer misconceptions of our duties will arise and more young men will be attracted to public health inspection as a career. In this connection the Ministry of Health has drawn the Council's attention to the reconstituted Public Health Inspectors Examination Board and to the advantage of the system of paid pupillage for public health inspectors. So far as I know, this Council has not offered facilities for training to young men interested in public health inspection.

It is disappointing to report that our achievements during the year fell short of what we had hoped would be done. I wrote in the Annual Reports for 1954 and 1955 of the increased time spent on meat inspection and that as a consequence less attention was being given to other public health work. This situation was aggravated in 1956 by the following factors:-

- (1) The clerical assistant (Miss K. M. Ford) was absent on sick leave from 20th February, 1956. A temporary replacement was not obtained until 7th May, 1956 and this was on a part-time basis only (25 hours per week).
- (2) The Additional Public Health Inspector (Mr. K. H. James) resigned on 30th April, 1956 and his successor (Mr. D. A. Dolphin) commenced duties on 2nd July, 1956.
- (3) In September 1956, I was forced to seek medical advice and as a result did not undertake meat inspection outside normal office hours for the remainder of the year (and in fact until April, 1957).

Our difficulties were lessened by the help received, in particular from two sources; inspectors of other authorities assisted on meat inspection on a number of Sundays and evenings; the Borough Surveyor arranged for his department to carry out the inspection and testing of new drainage works from 1st May onwards and also arranged for some help towards our clerical work. I would like to express my thanks to these colleagues for their assistance and to the Chairman of the Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health for their sympathetic attitude towards our difficulties.

S. J. Beal

Senior Public Health Inspector.

1. INSPECTIONS - 1956.

Under the Housing Acts:

Inspection of dwelling-houses	29
Re-inspection of dwelling houses	180
Visits re overcrowding	9
Unclassified	20
	<hr/>
	238

Under the Food and Drugs Acts:

Inspection and visits re unsound food	57
Inspection of "food premises"	60
Visits to slaughterhouses	1,061
Visits to dairies (including sampling)	17
Unclassified	4
	<hr/>
	1,199

Under the Public Health Acts:

Inspection and/or testing of sewers/drains (including soil and ventilating pipes)	224
Inspection of closets and cesspools	8
Inspection of filthy or verminous premises	31
Inspection of public convenience	1
Inspection for detection and abatement of statutory nuisances	239
Inspection and sampling of water supplies	2
Enquiries and visits re infectious diseases	66
Inspection of tents, vans and sheds	6
Inspection of nuisances from pigeons	33
Unclassified	14
	<hr/>
	624

Under the Factories Act:

Inspection of factories	9
Visits to outworkers' premises	-
Unclassified	-
	<hr/>
	9

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act:

(including 48 inspections carried out whilst visiting premises under other Acts but excluding visits by the rodent operator)	108
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Under the Shops Acts:

Inspection under s.38, Shops Acts, 1950	2
Other inspections	-
	<hr/>
	2

Under the Petroleum Acts:

50

Under the Pet Animals Act:

1

2,231

2. COMPLAINTS - 1956.

Disrepair of houses	16
Overcrowding or other inadequate housing conditions	2
Unsound food or unsatisfactory conditions in food premises	7
Defective and/or choked drains, sewers, closets, cesspools, etc.	22
Verminous and/or filthy premises	2
Offensive accumulations or deposits	4
Other public health nuisances	18
Rats and mice	22
Unclassified	<u>4</u>
Total:	<u>97</u>

3. NOTICES - 1956.

	Informal Notices		Formal Notices	
	Served	Complied with	Served	Complied with
Under (or preliminary to action under) Public Health Acts	21	11	1	1
Under (or preliminary to action under) Housing Acts	11	7	-	-
Under (or preliminary to action under) Food and Drugs Acts	6	-	-	-
Under (or preliminary to action under) Factories Acts	1	1	-	-
Under (or preliminary to action under) Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	1	1	-	-
Under (or preliminary to action under) Petroleum Acts	3	7	-	-
Under (or preliminary to action under) Shops Acts	1	-	-	-
Totals:	<u>44</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

4. HOUSING

Details of the thirteen houses closed or demolished as a result of the Council's action and of three houses voluntarily demolished by the owners are as follows:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Persons displaced</u>
65 Mill Street	Closing Order made by Council 10.1.56.	5 - Rehoused 13.2.56
83 Mill Street	Closing Order made by Council 10.1.56.	2 - Rehoused 6.2.56
8 Greenings Court	Closing Order made by Council 10.1.56.	4 - Rehoused 13.2.56.
5 Millers Close	Closing Order made by Council 10.1.56.	1 - Rehoused 13.2.56.
12 Salisbury Street	Closing Order made by Council 14.2.56.	4 - Rehoused 19.3.56.
14 Salisbury Street	Closing Order made by Council 14.2.56.	3 - Rehoused 19.3.56.
7 Gregory's Buildings	Closing Order made by Council 14.2.56.	Not yet re-housed.
30 High Street Fordington	Demolition Order made by Council 14.2.56. Demolished April, 1956.	4 - Rehoused 5.3.56.
77 Mill Street	Undertaking not to re-let accepted by Council 8.5.56.	2 - Rehoused 30.4.56.
44 Kings Road)	Demolished by owners after informal action June, 1956.	Nil
46 Kings Road)		Nil
48 Kings Road)		Nil
3 Lester Square	Closing Order made by Council 10.7.56.	Premises vacated before Closing Order was made.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Persons displaced</u>
72 Mill Street	Closing Order made by Council 2.8.56	Premises vacated before Closing Order was made.
41 Holloway Road	Closing Order made by Council 9.10.56.	Premises vacated before Closing Order was made.
18 Holloway Road	Closing Order made by Council 13.11.56.	Premises vacated before Closing Order was made.

The following table summarises the action taken by the Council under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, from 1951 onwards :-

	TOTAL 1951 - 1955 (inclusive)	1956	TOTAL 1951 - 1956 (inclusive)
Undertakings not to re-let given by owners	17	1	18
Undertakings to repair houses given by owners	2	-	2
Houses voluntarily closed by owners	4	-	4
Closing Orders made	14	11	25
Demolition Orders made	2	1	3
	39	13	52
Houses voluntarily demolished by owners	2	3	5
Houses demolished by owners after statutory action by Council	1	1	2
	3	4	7

In addition the Health Committee considered the following houses included in the Council's scheme for the clearance and demolition of unfit houses:-

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| 9 Mill Street |) | The tenants of these houses having been re-housed by the Council, notices of "time and place" were served and representations were made on behalf of the owners. No further action was taken to make Demolition or Closing Orders and the houses were re-let. |
| 53 Mill Street |) | |
| 8 Mill Street |) | |
| | | |
| 79 St.George's Road | | Further consideration of this house was deferred following the carrying out of some repairs by the owners. |
| | | |
| 11 Salisbury Street |) | These properties had been scheduled for dealing with as a Clearance Area. The Council approved in principle an outline scheme submitted by the owner for the conversion of the five cottages into two cottages. No further progress has been made with the scheme. |
| 12 Salisbury Street |) | |
| 13 Salisbury Street |) | |
| 14 Salisbury Street |) | |
| 15 Salisbury Street |) | |
| | | |
| 52 Icen Way | | The Council approved the use of this cottage, which is subject to a Closing Order, as a decorator's store. |
| | | |
| 17 Glyde Path Road |) | The Council decided not to purchase these cottages and not to make Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949. |
| 19 Glyde Path Road |) | |
| | | |
| 69 Mill Street | | A report on the condition of this property was submitted, but action by the Council was deferred. |
| | | |
| 71 Mill Street |) | Reports on the condition of these properties were submitted and preliminary steps taken for the making of Closing Orders. The Council made the Orders early in 1957. |
| 7 Pound Lane |) | |
| 16 Shorts Lane |) | |

The Clearance and Re-development Committee met three times in 1956 and considered the action to be taken with regard to the fifty-seven unfit properties in the first year programme of the Council's five year scheme. The position with regard to these properties at the end of 1956 was as follows :-

Clearance Areas.

Mill Street Area No.1. (33 properties)	)	The Council declared this area to be a Clearance Area on 13.11.56.
11-15 Salisbury Street (5 properties)	)	The Council agreed to consider a scheme of conversion to be submitted by the owner (see above). Three of the properties were vacant and the subject of Closing Orders.
10-13 Colliton Street (4 properties)	)	The Council's Buildings and Markets Committee, which controls these properties, agreed to the demolition of the cottages, two of which were vacant.
1-4 The Grove (5 properties)	)	The Council declared this area to be a Clearance Area on 13.11.56. Three of the cottages were vacant and all subject to an undertaking not to re-let given by the owner.
17 & 19 Glyde Path Road (2 properties)	)	Negotiations with the owner had failed to produce a scheme of re-conditioning.
44,46 & 48, Kings Road (3 properties)	)	Demolished voluntarily by the owners.

Individual Houses.

11 Friary Hill	Demolished
41 Holloway Road	Closing Order made. (Vacant)
30 High Street Fordington	Demolished
28 The Grove	Action deferred
79 St.George's Road	Partially repaired

Of the 228 houses included in the Council's five year scheme at the end of 1956, seven had been demolished and forty-one were vacant, formal or informal action having been taken to prevent their being re-let.

Housing Repairs.

After the service of informal notices upon the owners twelve houses were repaired. It continued to be very difficult to persuade owners to do any more than "patch" their properties, in view of the cost of repairs compared with the rents received.

Abatement Notices under the Public Health Act, 1936, served upon the owners of a group of three buildings comprising shops with living accommodation over two of them, not being complied with, Court proceedings were taken. Nuisance Orders were made by the Court on 18th February, 1956, and a fine of £2 with 4s.0d. costs imposed upon the owners in respect of each premises. Further proceedings were taken on 29th September, 1956, for non-compliance with the Nuisance Orders and a fine of £5 with 4s.0d. costs imposed in respect of each premises. The owners were ordered to comply with Nuisance Orders within a period of six weeks, failing which there would be a continuing penalty of £2 per day in respect of each property. Some repairs were commenced on 4th October, 1956.

There are a great many houses in the Borough in need of repair and improvement; most of them are sound properties and must continue in use for a very long time. In addition to repairs, the houses require such improvements as internal sanitation, hot water supply, a fixed bath and better food preparation and storage facilities so that they would provide a satisfactory standard of housing for the next twenty to thirty years. The provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, relating to improvement grants were introduced to encourage such improvements to properties. Five applications for improvement grants were approved by the Council in 1956 before it decided not to accept further applications.

5. FOOD PREMISES.

The number of food premises in the area, classified under the principal trade carried out, is as follows :-

Butchers	10
Fishmongers	5
Grocers and provision merchants	35
Bakers and flour confectioners	3
Greengrocers	11
Confectioners	14
Hotels	12
Restaurants	17
Public houses and clubs	20
Others	<u>2</u>
Total:	<u>129</u>

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, at 31st December, 1956, and of inspections made (including visits for sampling) is as follows:-

	<u>No. registered.</u>	<u>No. of inspections.</u>
For the sale, or manufacture, or storage of ice-cream	41	14
For the preparation or manufacture of meat products or preserved foods	4	4

The number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954 and of inspections made (including visits for sampling) is as follows :-

Distributors with premises within the Borough	4
Distributors trading from outside the Borough	2
Retail shops selling bottled milk only	<u>13</u>
	<u>19</u>
Number of inspections	17

6. FOOD HYGIENE.

The total number of visits made to food premises for all purposes was sixty. Routine inspection of food premises was not possible and many of the premises were not visited during the year.

The number of notified incidents of food poisoning in England and Wales continues to increase as shown below :-

1949 - 2,431
1950 - 3,979
1951 - 3,347
1952 - 3,519
1953 - 5,277
1954 - 6,016
1955 - 8,961

Salmonella organisms were most frequently identified as the causal organisms. These figures should serve as a warning to us in Dorchester that the standard of hygiene in food preparation and handling must be a high one if we are to continue to avoid an outbreak of food poisoning.

The Council, the proprietors of the food businesses and the public all have a part to play in setting the standard of hygiene: the Council can insist on the frequent routine inspection of all food premises, and can encourage health education of the food handlers and the public; the proprietors can insist on a high standard of hygiene in all parts of their premises and can ensure that their employees know and appreciate the dangers of any failure to reach that standard; the public can restrict their purchases to shops where they are satisfied with the way the foods are displayed and handled.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, set an improved standard for food premises and for the handling of food. Owing to the difficulties mentioned earlier routine visits under the Regulations were not possible, but proprietors were informed of the Regulations by circular letter and it was suggested to them that before carrying out any alterations they should contact the public health inspectors.

One talk on "Clean Food" was given to a women's organisation, but we were unable to progress with the scheme of talks on "The Problem and Prevention of Food Poisoning" to discussion groups from food premises.

7. FOOD INSPECTION.

Milk. In accordance with the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1954, all milk retailed within the Borough of Dorchester must be specially designated milk, i.e. "Pasteurised", "Sterilised" or "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

Ten samples of milk were taken, with results as indicated:-

	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>
Tuberculin Tested	-	-
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	1	-
Pasteurised	<u>9</u>	<u>-</u>
	10	-

Six samples of washed bottles were submitted for examination, with results as indicated :-

Satisfactory	6
--------------	---

Ice Cream. Ice-cream was manufactured on a small scale on one premises, heat treatment of the mix being undertaken in accordance with the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 to 1952.

Fifteen samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination, the results of which were :-

	Manufacturer (Hot Mix)	Other bulk Ice-cream	Pre-packed Ice-cream
Provisional Grade 1	-	-	6
Provisional Grade 2	3	1	-
Provisional Grade 3	-	2	1
Provisional Grade 4	-	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3	4	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

In addition two samples of iced lollies and two samples of ice-cream lollies were submitted for bacteriological examination; all the samples were satisfactory.

Twenty-eight samples of various other foods, including twenty-three samples of meat products or their ingredients, were submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory. Two of the samples contained food poisoning organisms.

The quantities of food found to be unsound and voluntarily surrendered to the department for disposal are shown in the following table. The food is surrendered at the office of the inspectors and disposed of by burying at the Council's refuse tip.

Canned or other pre-packed foods:-

595 lbs. meat or fish (247 packs)
 757 lbs. fruit (276 packs)
 519 lbs. vegetables (364 packs)
 86 lbs. soup (98 packs)
 107 lbs. milk (147 packs)
 93 lbs. other pre-packed foods (279 packs).

Other foods:-

434 lbs. meat, bacon and meat products.
 227 lbs. fish
 22 lbs. fruit

Total weight: 2,840 lbs.

8. MEAT INSPECTION.

Two premises within the Borough continued to be used as private slaughterhouses, both being used mainly for the wholesale meat trade but also supplying the needs of butchers in Dorchester and the neighbouring districts.

The number of animals slaughtered in 1956 was 61,491, an increase of 8,926 animals (or approximately 17 per cent) compared with 1955. With the exception of 112 calves, the carcasses and offals of all the animals were inspected. The weekly kill varied from 787 to 1,650 animals, with an average weekly kill of 1,182. The following table shows the increase in the numbers of carcasses examined in the period 1937 - 1956 :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total number of carcasses inspected</u>	<u>Average weekly number of carcasses inspected</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1937	1,847	36	-
1938	3,107	60	-
1948	10,548	204	Including assistance from inspectors of other authorities.
1951	12,441	239	Including assistance from inspectors of other authorities.
1952	13,250	255	-
1953	16,871	324	-
1954	34,475	663	Meat supplies were de-controlled in July, 1954.
1955	52,552	1,011	-
1956	61,379	1,180	Including assistance from inspectors of other authorities.

As in previous years, slaughtering took place over very long hours. At both slaughterhouses a full day's slaughtering was carried out on every Sunday except four during the year and three bank holidays. On occasions both inspectors were engaged on meat inspection at the same time. Overtime on meat inspection totalled 797½ hours compared with 650 hours in 1955, an increase of approximately 22 per cent.

Carcases and Offals inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle ex. Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed.	1,628	1,668	21,305	22,441	14,449
Number Inspected.	1,628	1,668	21,193	22,441	14,449
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	11	51	90	37	159
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	652	870	90	876	1,860
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	40.72	55.22	0.85	4.07	13.97
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	7	36	7	-	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	104	192	58	-	406
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	6.82	13.67	0.31	-	2.86
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	17	13	-	10	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	16	10	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	1	-	-	1	-
Total number of carcasses affected with one or more of above conditions.	765	1,078	243	924	2,424
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease.	46.99	64.63	1.15	4.12	16.78

Financial assistance towards the cost of meat inspection continued to be received from the neighbouring authorities of Portland Urban District, Swanage Urban District and Weymouth and Melcombe Regis Borough, calculated in accordance with the numbers of animals slaughtered for butchers with premises in those districts. Contributions amounting to £675 were also received from the slaughtering contractors calculated in accordance with the numbers of animals slaughtered for the "export" trade, i.e. for markets outside Dorset.

The Government scheme for financial assistance towards the meat inspection costs of local authorities was announced in 1957. The grant is intended to contribute to the costs of the inspection of meat slaughtered in a district but not intended for consumption within that district. Grants will be payable for the financial year 1956/57 and it is estimated that the Council will receive a sum in the region of £350, after taking into consideration the payments made by the slaughtering contractors.

The table on page 25 gives details of the animals slaughtered and inspected and of the extent of disease found.

The approximate weights of meat and offals rejected as unfit for human consumption, together with the comparative figures for previous years, are shown below:-

Meat and Offals rejected (Tons)

	<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Other Diseases</u>	<u>Total</u>
1951	24	19	43
1952	19	25	44
1953	18	20	38
1954	17	16	33
1955	17	20	37
1956	14	31	45

Compared with previous years, a sharp increase occurred in the numbers of whole carcasses rejected as unfit for human consumption. The increase was most pronounced in respect of cows, calves and pigs, as shown by the following figures :-

	Cattle ex. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Goats	Total
1955	13 (1.1%)	46 (2.1%)	15 (0.09%)	13 (0.12%)	39 (0.18%)	1	127 (0.24%)
1956	18 (1.1%)	87 (5.2%)	97 (0.46%)	37 (0.17%)	166 (1.15%)	-	405 (0.66%)

Many of the carcases rejected entirely were from cases of casualty or emergency slaughter and were intended for the manufacturing meat trade. 102 immature pigs, from a number of young pigs slaughtered because of an outbreak of atrophic rhinitis, were rejected. The principal causes for the rejection of the 405 whole carcases, classified in terms of Memo. 3/Meat, were as follows:-

	Cattle ex. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis.</u>					
Anaemia, advanced	-	-	-	-	1
Bruising, extensive and severe	-	3	2	1	3
Decomposition, generalised	-	-	-	1	-
Emaciation, pathological	2	12	9	11	11
Fever (including salmonellosis)	1	4	10	2	9
Immaturity, oedematous carcases, and carcases in poor physical condition	-	-	12	-	102
Jaundice	-	-	5	-	-
Mastitis, acute septic	-	2	-	1	1
Metritis, acute septic	-	8	-	2	-
Abnormal odour, associated with disease or other conditions prejudicial to health	1	-	-	-	-
Oedema, generalised	2	14	5	2	5
Pericarditis, acute septic	2	-	-	-	-
Peritonitis, acute, diffuse, septic	1	2	9	2	4
Pleurisy, acute, diffuse, septic	-	-	-	1	2
Pneumonia, acute septic	1	1	3	1	3
Pyæmia, including joint-ill	-	1	20	3	2
Septicaemia or toxæmia	-	4	13	10	10
Swine erysipelas, acute	-	-	-	-	6
Tumours, multiple	-	-	1	-	-
Other causes	1	-	1	-	-
	11	51	90	37	159
<u>Tuberculosis.</u>					
Generalised tuberculosis	7	32	7	-	5
Tuberculosis with emaciation	-	4	-	-	2
	18	87	97	37	166

The incidence of bovine tuberculosis continued to show a decline, the incidence in cows being less than one-half of what it was in 1951 and in other cattle about two-thirds. The following table shows the incidence of bovine tuberculosis in the last six years:-

	<u>Cattle</u> <u>(excluding cows)</u>	<u>Cows</u>
1951	10.2 per cent	28.4 per cent
1952	10.79 per cent	25.24 per cent
1953	10.60 per cent	23.67 per cent
1954	8.01 per cent	18.98 per cent
1955	8.26 per cent	17.21 per cent
1956	6.82 per cent	13.67 per cent

Congenital tuberculosis in calves.

The Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was notified of five cases of congenital tuberculosis in calves to enable him to trace the dams.

Cysticercus Bovis.

Routine examination of the head, tongue, heart and diaphragm of all cattle slaughtered revealed thirty-one cases of cysticercus bovis, equivalent to 0.94 per cent, one infection being found to be generalised. The locations of the cysts found were as follows:-

Generalised (all sites of predilection and widespread infection of carcass)	1
Head only (masseter muscles)	19
Heart only	6
Skirt only (diaphragm)	1
Head and skirt	1
Head, heart and skirt	1
Head, heart and clod	1
Head, tongue, heart and skirt	1
	<hr/>
	31
	<hr/>

Twenty-six of the thirty carcasses affected with localised cysticercus bovis were taken to cold storage at Weymouth, Bournemouth or Taunton and kept at the prescribed temperatures before release for consumption. The other four carcasses were rejected because of other conditions present (nephritis, emaciation and tuberculosis) or because the butcher was not prepared to submit the carcass to the approved cold storage treatment.

The incidence of cysticercus bovis is one of the current problems connected with meat inspection. The cysts, if viable and not subjected to sufficient heat in cooking, upon ingestion by humans develop into the

human tapeworm. The majority of cysts are found in prime beef (steers and heifers) and the subsequent cold storage treatment causes a loss to the butchers concerned. The incidence of cysticercus bovis in cattle examined at the Dorchester slaughterhouses during the past six years is as follows:-

1951	0.65 per cent	(28 cases)
1952	0.74 per cent	(31 cases)
1953	1.60 per cent	(70 cases)
1954	0.61 per cent	(23 cases)
1955	0.80 per cent	(27 cases)
1956	0.94 per cent	(31 cases)

At the end of 1956 a cold store had been constructed at one of the Dorchester slaughterhouses and it was put into use for the storage of carcasses affected with cysticercus bovis early in 1957.

Laboratory facilities.

The facilities of the Public Health Laboratory, which is under the direction of Dr. G.H. Tee, are available for the examination of specimens from carcasses.

9. SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933 and 1954.

Sixteen slaughtermen employed at the local slaughterhouses were licensed to slaughter or stun cattle, sheep and pigs with a mechanically operated instrument of the captive bolt pistol type or an electrically operated instrument (electroethaler). No licences to slaughter horses within the Borough have been issued.

10. WATER SUPPLIES.

Routine samples of the mains water supply were not taken by the public health inspectors, but samples were taken each week by the Water Engineer and the Public Health Department informed of the results.

11. DRAINAGE.

Fifty-six visits were made to inspect and test new drains, but from May onwards this work was temporarily undertaken by the Borough Surveyor's staff. One hundred and sixty-eight visits were made to inspect and test old drains.

12. FACTORIES.

The table on page 31 shows the number of factories on the Council's register and details of the inspections made. Routine inspection of the factories in the Borough was not carried out.

Notification was received during the year of fifty-one outworkers who were employed in their own homes making wearing apparel and nets.

13. CAMPING CONTROL.

Licences were issued under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to three persons to station an individual caravan for permanent use. A licensed residential site for twenty-nine caravans continued in use throughout the year. This site is provided with permanent sanitary accommodation (three water-closets for each sex), washbasins and mains water supply. The whole site has been asphalted to form hard standings.

14. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As a routine measure Moore's swabs were kept in the high and low level sewers in manholes near the sewage disposal works. One hundred and fifty swabs were submitted for examination, all of which gave negative results.

During the year disinfection of one premises was carried out, at the request of the occupier. An account was rendered for the cost of the work as the patient concerned had not been suffering from a notifiable disease.

Four check samples taken from various points in the rivers Frome and Corno were submitted for bacteriological examination.

15. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

During the year ten premises were disinfested, £33. 10s. Od. being recovered from the persons administering the properties concerned. The work was carried out to destroy the following pests:-

Ants	- 2 premises
Cockroaches	- 5 premises
Fleas	- 2 premises
Wasps	- 1 premises

FACTORIES ON THE COUNCIL'S REGISTER AND DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS MADE.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	8	1	-
(11) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	88	1	-	-
(111) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities (excluding outworkers premises)	2	-	-	-
	110	9	1	-

FACTORIES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	1	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences:-					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	1	-

16. RODENT CONTROL.

The Council's rodent control service was continued on the lines of the scheme approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. No charge is made for the destruction by the Council of rats and mice, except in the case of business premises. The work carried out during the year is shown in the table below:-

	Local Authority Premises	Dwelling Houses inc. L.A. Houses	All other Premises inc. trade premises	Agri -culture	Total
Total Number of Properties	22	3,298	763	10	4,093
Number of Properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification	2	29	20	1	52
(b) Survey	3	26	6	-	35
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited for some other purpose)	1	43	3	1	48
Number of Properties inspected found to be infested by					
(a) Rats	3	44	11	1	59
(b) Mice	2	5	7	-	14
Number of Infested Properties treated by the L.A.	5	47	15	1	68

In February a maintenance treatment of eighteen manholes was carried out, at fourteen of which rat infestations were found. In September test baiting of sewers was undertaken at thirty-four manholes, the bait being consumed by rats at four manholes. A maintenance treatment of twenty-two manholes was therefore undertaken and fourteen manholes were found to be infested.

17. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Under the above Act five premises in which upholstery is undertaken are registered by the Council. Premises within the Borough are not used for the manufacture or storage of rag flock. No visits of inspection or sampling under this Act were made during the year.

18. DEALERS IN OLD METALS.

Six dealers in old metals are registered by the Council under the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. No visits of inspection were made during the year by your public health inspectors. Six members of the Dorset County Constabulary were authorised by the Council to visit the premises.

19. PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 and 1936.

At the beginning of the year fifty-seven licences were renewed in respect of existing petroleum installations.

Twenty-nine visits were made during the year to licensed installations, most of the visits being made during the period when applications for renewal of licences were being considered. At two premises the licensees were asked to provide improved means of extinguishing petroleum spirit fires. At one store it was found that the statutory notice to employees was not being displayed.

Twenty-one visits were made to new or proposed installations, ten new tanks being subjected to air pressure test before being put into service. Three new installations were licensed during the year, and two existing installations were amended to provide additional storage capacity.

20. PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Three premises and a market stall were licensed by the Council under the above Act for the sale of pet animals. One of the premises was visited during the year.

